

**D.C. Office on Aging  
Asian and Pacific Islander Action Plan  
Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2002**

**October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2002**



Government of the District of Columbia

Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

For well over a decade, demographic information has indicated that the American populace has become more diverse. In recent years, the largest numbers of immigrants have been those who speak Spanish or Asian and Pacific Islander language.

This annual report reflects the DC Office on Aging (DCOoA) continuing support for programs and services for the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) elderly community. The DC Office on Aging provides a grant to the Greater Washington Urban League to provide services for the API elderly on an annual basis as funds are available. The Greater Washington Urban League Asian Service Center is the central point of information and assistance for those API elderly who have limited English proficiency, primarily the Chinese. Over 250 API (17%) received one or more services through the Center during fiscal year 2002. According to the 2000 Census, there are 1,483 Asian and Pacific Islander elderly residing in Washington, D.C.

In Fiscal Year 2002, the Office on Aging accomplished the following:

- Continued to fund three staff positions at the Asian Senior Center through the Greater Washington Urban League. In addition, funding was provided for counseling, recreation and socialization, congregate meals, transportation and other support services to the participants at the Asian Senior Center.
- Held a town meeting for Asian Elderly to discuss issues and concerns that they might have. This was an annual opportunity for getting feedback from the community on service needs.
- Held a special session at Annual Caregivers Conference focusing on Asian caregivers of elderly with mental illness.
- Cosponsored with Department of Parks and Recreation, the annual Chinese New Years Celebration for Seniors.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

D.C. Law 1-24 created the District of Columbia Office on Aging (DCOoA) as the state and area agency on aging, designated by the Mayor to administer federal funds disbursed by the Older Americans Act and District appropriated funds. The budget for the Office on Aging is comprised of District and federal funds, other grants, agency matching funds and participant contributions. Our mission is to advocate, plan, implement, and monitor programs in health, education, employment, and social services which promotes longevity, independence, dignity and choice for District citizens who are 60 years and older.

We provide grant funding to a senior service network of providers (Senior Service Network) consisting of 24 community-based non-profits (including four universities) that operate over 40 programs for senior citizens. The programs include:

Counseling	Transportation
Adult Day Care	Caregiver Support Programs
Case Management	Senior Literacy Program
Congregate Meal Programs	Multipurpose Senior Centers
Health Insurance Counseling	Nursing Home
Homebound Meals	Special Events and Activities
In-Home Support	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Legal Services	Health Promotion and Wellness Programs

The Office on Aging funds the Greater Washington Urban League to provide services and programs directly to the Asian and Pacific Islander elderly. Through this partnership access and support is provided for API who may have limited ability to understand English and to communicate with others in government sponsored programs and services.

GWUL provides these services through the Asian Service Center. This center provides a valuable link for information and assistance to Asian elderly who may need services. The Asian Service Center is located at 417 G Place NW. The center personnel consist of a Director, Activities Coordinator and a Social Service Representative. In addition, they have 5 senior aides (Title V) to help with center activities and programs.

**In Fiscal Year 2002, the Office on Aging accomplished the following:**

- Translated into Chinese and Vietnamese documents such as the Office on Aging Fact Sheet information flyers on special events such as Senior Job Fair and Multicultural Information Fair.
- Continued to fund three staff positions at the Asian Senior Center.
- Continued funding to provide counseling, recreation and socialization, congregate meals, transportation and other supportive services to the participants at the Asian Senior Center.
- Continued to encourage Asians to apply for vacant positions within the Senior Service Network.
- Partnered with the Asian Senior Center to make sure that API elderly were included in our citywide sponsored special events such as Elderfest, Senior Day, Older Americans Month Kickoff, Mens Health Day and the Senior Picnic.
- Distributed Asian Senior Center Fact Sheets in Vietnamese and Chinese at special events and health fairs.
- Cosponsored the annual Chinese New Years' Celebration for Seniors.
- Held a town meeting for Asian Elderly to discuss issues and concerns that they might have. This was an annual opportunity for getting feedback from the community and providing useful information.
- Held a special session at Annual Caregivers Conference focusing on Asian caregivers of elderly with mental illness. Twenty five participated.

**For Fiscal Year 2003 the DC Office on Aging will:**

- ❖ Continue to have information/materials translated as needed.
- ❖ Continue to fund the three positions at the Asian Senior Center, as funds are available.
- ❖ Continue to provide counseling, recreation/socialization, congregate meals, transportation and other supportive services to the participants at the Asian Service Center as funds are available.
- ❖ Continue to encourage applicants for vacant positions within the Senior Service Network agencies.
- ❖ Continue to encourage Senior Service Network Agencies to include Asian elderly in Special Events, programs and services.
- ❖ Hold Town Meeting for Asian Elderly to address their concerns.
- ❖ Analyze census information related to Asian Elderly as released.
- ❖ Include API elderly in the annual citywide senior special events.

The accomplishments and tasks outlined in this report reflect the Office on Aging's continuing effort to shape community outreach strategies to reach, support and service Asian and Pacific Islanders, especially those who live alone, are impoverished, and whose English is limited.

## **2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/OUTSTANDING TASKS**

### **Objective 1: Translation of Materials**

- ✓ The Office on Aging Fact Sheet on Services and special events was translated into Chinese and Vietnamese. The Asian Service Center assisted Office on Aging in translating special events, alerts and activities in Chinese and other appropriate languages.

### **Objective 2: Diversifying Workforce**

- ✓ The Office on Aging currently has no Asian and Pacific Islander staff members. The Office on Aging through the Greater Washington Urban League funds three positions at the Asian Service Center. This center assists us with seniors who may speak an Asian dialect and may not understand English very well. In FY 2003, the Office will continue to support these positions as funds are available.

### **Objective 3: Multicultural Training**

- ✓ GWUL provide yearly staff training for its senior service network personnel on how to assist and provide services to elderly in their programs. When positions are available in the Office on Aging, we will outreach to API individuals and organizations to identify persons to apply. Two of our service providers participated in the Boat People diversity training.

### **Objective 4: Community Outreach**

- ✓ The Office on Aging partnered with The Asian Service Center during the year to make sure that Asian Elderly were included in our citywide sponsored special events such as:

Elderfest  
Senior Picnic  
Mens Health Day  
Senior Holiday Party  
Congressional Black Caucus Aging Braintrust  
Caregivers Conference

### Tasks:

- ✓ To continue to address the issues and concerns that the Asian Elderly community might have. The Annual town meeting is an annual opportunity for the Office on Aging to hear from the community and provide useful information.
- ✓ To continue to work with Boards and Commissions to identify a qualified Asian to serve on the DC Commission on Aging.
- ✓ To continue to do outreach through media - news and press releases to Channel 56 (Chinese), Voice of America, Washington Chinese News, Washington China Post, and World Journal on upcoming events and alerts.
- ✓ To continue working with the Asian Service Center and utilizing their contacts to get information out to the community.

### **3. OTHER**

- ✓ To continue to compile and analyze census and other data on where Asian and Pacific Islanders live and direct information and services towards those areas.

### **4. LESSON LEARNED**

To have multiple contacts within the Asian and Pacific Islander community and to get the word out about services. It has been a positive experience to include API in special events and activities that will show the diversity of our aging population.



## **5. FUTURE PLAN**

- To continue to translate materials as appropriate.
- To continue to fund three positions at Asian Senior Center as funds are available.
- To continue to outreach to API individuals and organizations to apply for employment within the Senior Service Network.
- To continue to partner with and cosponsor special events with Asian Service Center.
- To analyze census data as released to help identify areas of need.
- To incorporate the needs of the Asian elderly as part of the new State Plan for 2004 - 2006.
- To continue to work with API and other DC agencies on Community Fairs and Town Meetings that will give Office on Aging an opportunity to provide information and assistance to API elderly and their families.